Whartensburgh 1846

—and—

Wharton 1971

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Historical Sketch

Prepared For The

125th CELEBRATION

Of Wharton, Ohio

●

August 14, 1971

WHARTON ELEVATOR

Dealers In

Grain, Feed, Fertilizer, etc.

PHONE 458-2845

WHARTON, OHIO

Historical Sketch of Whartensbaugh, Founded Anno Domini 1846

The Village of Wharton, Ohio at its beginning was called Whartensburgh and was named after a certain Mr. Wharton whose history could not be ascertained.

The founding of Wharton falls within two peculiar historical facts. In 1845 bath tubs were regarded as an undemocratic extravagance and Boston prohibited their use by law. Virginia taxed bath tubs thirty dollars per year. In 1847 the United Postal System for the first time used adhesive stamps. Between these two dates, in 1846, Whartensburgh was founded. The "History of Wyandot County", issued 1879 states that Whartensburgh was laid out in 1848. However, a discrepancy, both in the spelling of the name of the town as well as in thedate of its surveying is shown by the original Surveyor's Chart of the village, made by Mr. Samuel Rathborn. This Surveyor's Chart, a valuable possession of the Council of Wharton, spells the name Whartensburgh and gives as the date of its surveying August, 1846.

A very interesting line is found written under the Surveyor's Chart. It reads "This is to certify that the above town plot is true and correct as near as could be laid off for Jam piles, tree tops and logs". This line gives a vivid picture of the conditions prevailing when Whartensburgh came into being. The rich and level lands of Ohio abounded in timber, mainly hard wood, and demanded stalwart and rugged men for the clearing.

On April 4th, 1835 Conrad Wickiser and Charles Smith were logging, when the chain used in the work happened to break and became entangled in a spice bush which it tore up by the roots. It disclosed to these men the exceeding rich soil of that section of land and these men decided to call the township "Richland".

The verdure of the land was plentiful and majestic oaks, sturdy beech trees and giant elms grew without number. The township had very few streams, but the soil was satuarated with abundant moisture. The first settlers did heroic work. Richland Township organized March 1, 1813 was a vast wilderness, destitute of roads. Trees had to be felled and clearings demanded hard and prolonged labor before the ground could be ploughed to produce corn, oats, hay, potatoes, rye, hemp and barley. Houses had to be constructed of logs and ditches were to be dug for drainage of the land.

At times the heavy rains brought floods and spoiled the planting, or summer drouths caused crop failure. When food was scarce fathers at their meals would leave the small quantity of bread to their children and go out into the woods, to chew the cambium layer

of the slippery elms to supplement their frugal rations.

The first house in Whartensburgh was built by Mr. N. DePew and the first Postmaster was Mr. James E. James. The latter with his office also kept a store—the first store in Whartensburgh. This first Postmaster had not the conveniency of using adhesive stamps. As it was cutomary then, the Postmasters affixed their stamps with ink directly to the envelopes. Congress had authorized the use of adhesive stamps in 1845 but had made no provisions for the printing of same. Two years later, in 1847 the government furnished adhesive stamps. In the time intervening Postmasters produced their own stamps. A letter that took three cents in postage in 1946 then cost seventy-five cents to be sent a distance as far as from New York to Philadelphia. A letter now takes eight cents per ounce, effective May 1971.

On the south side of Main Street, east of the railroad, Mr. Ira Bristoll built a shop of logs and in it made caskets for the community. Caskets then were plain "coffins". Opposite his shop the earliest brick structure, the "Buggy Shop" was built. This structure still stands and joins the "Meat Shop" which also is a relic of the juvenile times of Whartensburgh.

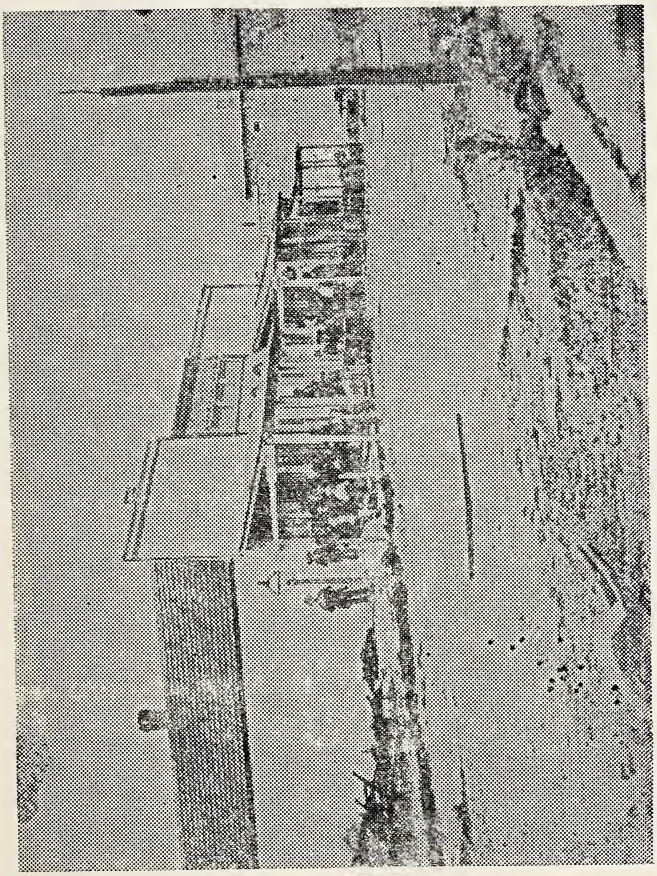
The town plot of Whartensburgh was laid out on both sides of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad. The locomotives then were fired with wood and were, on account of their small size, called "Peanutroasters" by the public. The trains ran on wooden rails which were surfaced with strap iron. The road was built in 1844.

John and George Sterling in 1858 erected the first sawmill and chose Whartensburgh for its location. It is worthy of note that one of the early buildings was the "Wharton House", a hotel, which stood on the site where the Bristoll Garage now stands. In 1878 Mr. Wm. Earp was proprietor of this building and from 1902 to 1907 Mr. Albert Howard was the owner of it.

First Lot Bought

From a newspaper clipping furnished by Mr. B. Lee we take the following excerpt for information:

Mrs. Anna Depew who lived one-fourth of a mile west of Wharton was born May 5, 1805. At the age of nineteen she was married to Mr. Nicholas Depew. In 1849 they moved to what now is called Wharton. There was no town, but the land was laid out in lots. Of these Mr. DePew bought the first lot for the price of five dollars. Mrs. Nicholas DePew always always enjoyed good health and at the age of ninety-nine years still read her large-print Bible. She died at the age of one-hundred-and-two years.



First Picture of Whartensburgh 1866

To the Honorable Commissioners of Wyandot County, Ohio

Gentlemen:

The undersigned Electors of said County, residing upon territory herein after described, respectfully petitions you, honorably bound, To become an Incorporated Village under the name "Maple City". The principle part of the territory proposed to be Incorporated has been laid off into Village lots named Whartonsburg. There are about three-hundred-and-fifty inhabitants residing in the proposed Corporation. We hereby appoint R. V. Rummell and William Bristoll as our agents to act for us in securing your favored consideration of the petition, herewith is an accurate map of the territory proposed to be incorporated November 22, 1878. Description of Territory:

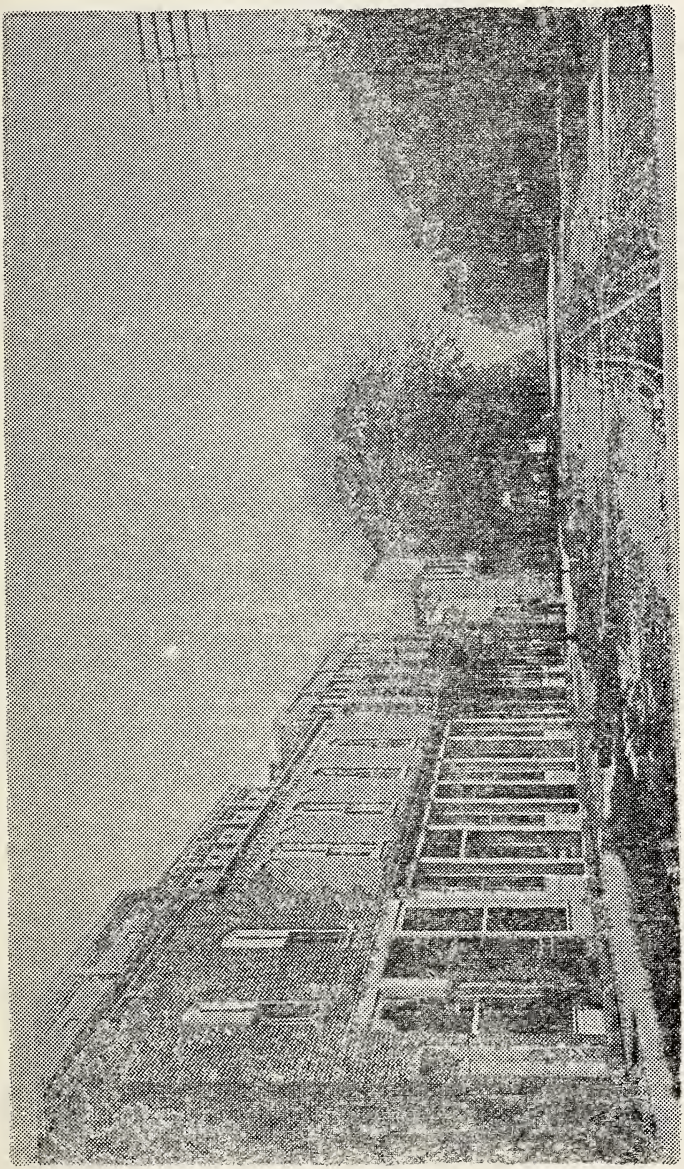
The North half of Section twenty-two. The North West forth of Section twenty-three. The West half of Section fourteen and all the Section of fifteen in Township Two, South of Range twelve, East in Wyandot County, Ohio, including the Lots in Whartonsburg.
(Signed)

G. M. Rasegrant
R. V. Rummell
Robert Davidson
J. J. Richards
J. D. Rummell
Jacob Spoon
J. F. Kimmel
W. H. Marvin
D. W. Wickiser
C. Hostler
Harry E. Hunt
John Ebaugh
F. M. Cook
R. B. Bell
F. D. Shaner
J. C. Cole
W. H. Myers
Michael Harick
Lewis Myers
Henery DePew
P. L. Middleton
Geo.W. Duffield
W. K. Vogel
J. Monk

J. Baker
Wm. Thayer
Lewis Morehart
George Wood
L. W. Martin
P. W. Case
Henery E. Earp
Marvin Earp
S. R. Coates
Wm. McClellen
D. Dumm
James Rummell
C. Costes
Wm. B. Pever
S. A. Dysinger
Jonathan Bowser
B. W. Ward
A. F. Smith
Wm. Earp
John Graner
J. W. Ebough
A. J. Murray
S. W. Rangler
B. Gantz

John M. McClellen
J. A. Sterling
John Bolton
Wm. Bristoll
S. R. Mohre
John Sterling
G. S. Couter
J. C. Andrews
J. C. Shaner
Isaih Hummel
U. A. Jaycox
Thomas Miller
Mupal Sturzz
Jno JePew
J. C. Duffield
S. Spoon
D. Cramer
P. H. Wickiser
Joseph Earp
David Cole
Orange L. Cleveland
J. B. Waugh

(There was a total of seventy-one signers of the above petition)



Main Street, Wharton, Ohio, 1905, Looking East

Light and More Light

The first kerosene-oil street lamp in Whartensburgh was privately owned by Mr. William Bristoll. It shed its gentle rays of light each night in front of his store. The lamp mounted on a wooden post appears in the "First Picture of Whartensburgh" in this book.

The first kerosene-oil street lamps were purchased from Campbell & Co. on April 15th, 1890 for the price of $110.13. For the first two months Mr.A.F. Campbell was the Street Lamp Lighter. Then the following persons were successors in his highly exalted position: J. J. Richard, 1890; Claud Campbell, 1890; J. E. Kirby, 1890-1891. J. J. Mayer, 1892-1893; W. H. Hagerman, 1893; Geo. W. Kear, Jr., 1894; W. H. Hagerman, 1894-1896; Chas. G. Earp, 1896-1897; L. S. DeLong, 1897-1899; Joe Johnson, 1899; J. D. Rummell, 1899-1907; C. L. Rummell, 1907; D. A. Rummell. 1907-1909.

Gasoline street lights made by the Royal Gas Light Co. were bought and installed Aug. 1909 at the cost of $247.86. For these lights which were triangular in shape, Mr. D. A. Rummell was the first lighter. These new lights were mounted on iron legs and stood about one foot above ground. The attached tin container held the gasoline for fuel and a generator. An alarm clock was connected with this device which turned out the light at about 11 p. m. These clocks were set by the lamp lighter at about sun-down.

The office of lamp lighting either had gathered new prominence or there was an increase in salary, for the next lamp lighter, Mr. J. A. Southward, continued in office from 1909 until 1915, the longest period any lamp lighter served.

March 15, 1915 was a great day for Wharton, for then a franchise was granted to Mr. B. L. Marvin to install poles, wires and cables and street lights to have the town electrically lighted. The electric current was furnished by the generating plant located in the Wharton Light & Garage Co. The plant and building where it was operated was owned by Mr. N. C. Kear. The streets were first lighted in electric incandescency in May 1915. Several of these electric street lights are still in use.

This private lighting plant continued for five years when the Council saw it necessary to issue bonds to the amount of $10,000.00 to build a line of cables to Carey, Ohio, to purchase electric current from its plant. In this special council meeting the votes in favor of this project were 178. Only ten ballots carried a "Nay". The last bond of this ten-thousand-dollar issue was paid from revenues in December, 1931.

In 1921 Mr. Mourice E. Elder engineered the work of the new line laid by the contractor Guy F. Burnett. From this new source of power the streets were first lit in September, 1922. The electric street lights, some of which are still in use. were at first turned on and off by switches handled by the night police. At present they are operated by electric time clock switches.

The lights for the business section of Wharton were installed in 1937 by the Sheridan Standard White Way Co. at a cost of $424.40.

Later these same lights for the business section were replaced by florescent lamps and most of those throughout the village have been replaced by mercury vapor lights.

The Wharton Newspapers

Wharton can boast of three newspapers, copies of which are still extant. The earliest newspaper bore the appropriate name "The Wharton Leader". It was printed in Wharton by Will E. and Fred C. Grose and its initial issue appeared Nov. 26, 1886. From it we quote: "The columns shall be devoted to such matter as we have reason to believe are for the best interest of the community and not conflicting with the moral and social developments, but rather sustaining a course that will assist in building up and making higher and purer these qualities. Social and other scandals shall never find place in these columns. We shall treat Democrats, Prohibitionists, Republicans and Greenbackers with the same courtesy."

The next newspaper was "The Rip Saw". This also was a four-column eight-page paper and was issued by the Wharton Publishing Co., R. R. Dumm & C. V. Morris, Editors and Proprietors. In its first issue, April 18, 1902, we read "This paper is devoted to the interest of Wharton and vicinity and to all who like something new. Here is a paper that will help you. Now, if you are not a subscriber, we would be pleased to have you call and leave your name". A sample copy of "The Rip Saw" can still be seen and read in the present City Building.

A third paper, "The Wharton Times" made its appearance Feb. 27, 1903. It announces "A weekly newspaper devoted to the interest of the editor and his patrons exclusively, published every Friday by Theo. B. Lillard, Editor and Prop." Further in its "Salutatory" we read "To the merchants and business men this publication is to be a helping adjunet. We, like they, are not in business for the fun, honor or glory, but for what we can derive financially, and we propose to take business from wherever we can get it, else we would not be a business institution".

The Banks of Wharton

The first bank, "The Broker's Bank", was managed by Bristol, Mohre & Co.

The name of the next bank in Wharton was "The Richland Deposit Bank" and was owned by Mr. William Bristoll.

The third bank also was privately owned by Messrs. William Cramer and C. D. Campbell and was called "Wharton Bank".

The fourth bank had a tripartite owneship namely that of Messrs. E. E. E. Kear. S. E. Huston and M. H. Kear. It was started in 1902 under the name "The Wharton Bank".

This name was continued under the next management of the bank consisting of Messrs. E. E. E. Kear, Pres., and Ray B. Kear, Cashier. This bank was organized in 1933 and its present directorship consists of the Messrs. Emery P. Kear, President; Geo. W. Huston, Vice President; Norman Kear, Royal Kear, Richard Earp, Daniel Bennett and Hubert O. Kear.

The Doctors of Wharton

Two of the first doctors in Whartensburgh were Dr. Morris and Dr. W. Case.

J. Odenbaugh, M. D., graduate of Union Schools of Washington and Bethany and Vermillion Colleges studied under Dr. J. A. Stansell of Forest, Ohio, and came to Wharton in 1880. His residence was opposite the Methodist Church.

S. L. Clark, M. D., graduate of the Cleveland Regular Medical College, studied under Dr. C. V. McMillen and came to Whartensburgh in May, 1877. Another Dr. Clark opened a Drug Store here in 1881.

J. D. Johnson, M. D., graduate of Waynesburg College, studied under Dr. J. A. Groves and came to Wharton in 1881.

Other doctors who since then practiced in Wharton were J. C. Andrews, W. A. Marshall, N. M. Crawford and V. N. Bowen.

The Schools of Wharton

The first school house erected in Richland Township stood on Section 17. Here Mr. Charles Smith was the school master in the winters of 1835, 1836 and 1837.

The second school in this township was built on Section 2. It was made of round logs. The upper floor consisted of poles laid closely together and the lower floor was of Punsheon. Oiled paper in the holes rerved as windows. In this building Mr. Abraham Cole taught in 1840. There were about twenty pupils in each of these schools.

The first school building in Wharton was located just north of the present school building.

In 1870 a new building was erected on Main Street on the lots where Mrs. Martha Passet's and Nelson Wickiser's homes stand. The first. second and third grades occupied the lower floor of the brick building, the seventh, eighth and ninth grades had the upper floor. The frame building which was moved across the street and is now used as Corbin's garage was occupied by the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. The first and only graduates from this school building were Ray Bristoll and Rea Cramer.

West of the present school building in 1905 under the superintendency of O. A. Suber a new school building was erected.

In 1922 the new centralized school building was opened for the classes. The old building was destroyed by fire in 1928. In 1929 three additional rooms were added to the new building. Until 1914 office, E. A. Baughman, G. R. Traxler, C. R. Ogden, E. L. Hartley, N. O. A. Suber was superintendent, and since then there followed in this Younger, H. B. Zulauf, Dale Heskett, L. F. Manhart, R. K. Derickson, Georgre Stout, Gene Zuber, Howard Rinehart and Dennis D. Bell.

Some of the early teachers who served in the first brick school house in the early '80's were Mr. Wm. Watermyer, Mr. Lewis Bell, Mr. R. B. Bell, Mr. T. J. Stout and Mr. O. E. Reynolds. The latter with his father,Mr.Andrew J. Reynolds, taught in the District school for many years.

In the early 1960's, a new school district was formed from the

former Wharton, Mt. Blanchard and Forest school districts. Mr. Bell was selected as the first superintendent of the newly-formed Riverdale School District. The last class to graduate from the Wharton High School was in 1962. The local school is still being retained as an elementary school, however.

The Fire Department

The first fire fighting in Whartensburgh was done by a Bucket Brigade. Invariably a home would have a water bucket for fire fighting and a ladder long enough to reach the roof. In case of fire all citizens would rush to the danger spot and form a line from the water supply to the fire and hand full buckets of water down this line for the extinguishing of the fire and pass the empty buckets back for their dip.

On Aug. 13, 1886 the Council of Wharton made fire fighting a community concern by purchasing from T. J. Howard a cart, ladders, a hook and buckets.

Keeping up with the advance if science, Wharton bought fire extinguishers in 1886 from C. H. Sulthen & Co. and placed these tubes filled with chemicals in the places of business.

The next big improvement in fire fighting came when in 1901 the Council bought a hand pump which was to be operated by four men on each end of the lever. It had a tin tank for the water supply which was to be filled by the Bucket Brigade. This fire fighting machine was bought from Campbell and Cramer. The Mayor of the town, W. B. Nichols, received the prominent position as Fire Director.

W. K. Vogel, village blacksmith in Wharton, built the next Fire Engine Wagon in 1901.

In May, 1901 a Fire Engine House was built by Bristoll & Baker on the east side of the Village Jail.

In that year an ordinance was released by the Council to have all water buckets painted red. These buckets newly bought from A. McEvoy were used for the filling of the 300-gallon water tank on the Fire Engine Wagon.

In 1912 a fire engine, to be hand-drawn and hand-pumped was purchased. This engine required six men on each side of the lever. The purchase was made through Kear, Huston & Kear from Prairie Depot, Ohio. The Wharton Light and Garage Co. housed this equipment.

In Nov. 1927, Richland Township and Wharton Corporation voted on a bond issue of $6,500 to purchase a new Studebaker Fire Truck with 500 gallons per minute pump capacity. This truck with necessary equipment was delivered in Wharton Oct. 15, 1928. The village of Kirby gave $500.00 toward this purchase and received fire protection for it.

The Township Trustees at first housed this new vehicle in the Wharton Light & Garage Co. buliding, but in 1935 built a cement block building on the east side of the Townhouse. This building was put up by W. P. A. labor and still houses the truck.

A 1,000 barrel cistern was dug on the lot in the rear of Wharton Restaurant and shortly after that an eight inch well was drilled on

the corner of Sandusky and Jackson Streets for water supply in case of fire. A siren was purchased by the council and placed on a trestle on the lot of the Post Office. It was used to summon the fire fighters to their duty in case of fire.

The first Volunteer Fireman Company, organized in 1928, consisted of W. B. Nichols, Fire Chief; Nelson Wickiser, Assistant Fire Chief; F. J. Corbin, Driver; Ralph Baker, Driver; Paul Heuberger, Driver; Dale Ward, Driver; Clinton Kear, Fireman. A. E. Southward, Fireman; Emery P. Kear, Fireman; Earnest Kohler, Fireman; Howard Wood, Fireman; Cletus Heuberger, Fireman; Jack Bristoll, Fireman.

In Nov. 1969, Richland Township and Village of Wharton voted on a levy to purchase a new Ford fire pumper to replace the Dodge fire truck, which had replaced the above-mentioned Studebaker fire truck. The new levy will run for a period of several years.

The Telephone

The first telephone in Wharton, now on exhibition at the Centennial, was installed in the building now occupied by the Wharton Hardware Store. It consists of a wall telephone box at the base of which a plug can be inserted into holes which then connected this phone with other towns of the neighborhood.

Mr. Jacob Welz, who with his son Andrew was dealing in hay had the first telephone installed in his house. The line for it was built by Mr. Welz himself and the insulation knobs for this first rural line were nailed to such trees as stood nearest the straightest way between his home and Wharton.

Shortly after this privately owned telephone was in use, Wharton had telephones installed by three different companies. The Home, The Bell, and the Mutual Telephone Companies vied with each other for the service. As the lines of these companies were not interchangeable, some subscribers had three telephones in their homes, one for each line.

At one Hallowe'en celebration some boys had wound thin copper wire around the three lines of a junction pole. Consequently one calling from Wharton was never sure from what town he would receive his answer. Alvada, McCutchensville or Upper Sandusky was likely to respond to the call. This confusion went on until the prank of the boys was discovered and corrected.

Mr. Oscar Wise of Mt. Blanchard owned the first community telephone. The Mutual Telephone Company was owned by local farmers. The owner of this line sold their rights to the Ohio Telephone Company and these in turn sold to the Ohio Associated Telephone Company. This company now operating, soon will install the dial telephone system.

The General Telephone Company of Ohio now serves our telephone users and will have had installed an underground cable service as this booklet is being published. There are also plans to have direct dialing system installed in the future.

The Railroads

The Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad Company was the first railroad running through Richland Township. Its direction is almost due northeast and southwest. Its central station was Whartensburgh.

This company, incorporated in 1832, was vested with the right to construct the railway from Dayton via Springfield, Urbana, Bellefontaine to near Upper Sandusky, Tiffin and Lower Sandusky and Sandusky, Huron County, on Jan. 5, 1832.

The State of Ohio granted a loan of $200,000 for this project on March 14, 1836.

Bonds $1,000 each were subscribed to the company by the following counties: Logan County. $25.000, Hardin County $30,000, Hancock County $60,000, Springfield (city) $20,000 and Clark County $25,000.

The Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad constructed its road from Tiffin to Sandusky by way of Bellevue. In 1851 the Sandusky City & Indiana Railroad Company built a road from Tiffin to Sandusky via Clyde. The last road named was deemed more favorable than the one built by the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad Company, therefore this company leased the road going over Clyde and ultimately abandoned the road over Bellevue.

In 1854 this company leased the road to the Springfield & Columbus Railroad Company for fifteen years.

The name Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad Comdany was changed to Sandusky, Dayton & Cincinnati Railroad Company in 1858.

On July 2nd, 1866, the certificate of re-organization gave the name Sandusky & Cincinnati Railroad Company. This newly founded Company leased the road to the Cincinnati, Dayton and Eastern Railroad Company. In 1869 the name was changed to Cincinnati, Sandusky & Cleveland Railroad Company.

Next it was leased to the Columbus, Springfield & Cincinnati Railroad Company. In 1881 the road was leased to the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western Railroad Company. The chief stations of this line were Carey and Wharton.

The Local Time Table of the Indiana, Bloomington & Western Railroad, copied from the "Leader", Wharton's first newspaper, reads:

GOING EAST		GOING WEST	
No. 2	5:47 A. M.	No. 1	9:47 P. M.
No. 4	1.28 P. M.	No. 3	9:50 A. M.

Wharton as a shipping point was not inconspicuous, as a statement by Mr. Arthur M. Earp, Freight Agent, shows:

During July, 1886, shipped from Wharton 240 tons of freight
During Aug., 1886, shipped from Wharton 890 tons of freight
During Sept., 1886, shipped from Wharton 320 tons of freight
During Oct., 1886, shipped from Wharton 310 tons of freight

The "Picking House" shipped barrels of picked chicken on ice to neighboring towns. Shipments of live chickens usually of from 75 to 100 crates.

On July 2, 1866 by decree of the Erie Common Pleas Court the name of the railroad was changed to The Cincinnati, Sandusky & Cleveland Railroad Company.

The Cincinnati, Sandusky & Cleveland Railroad Company was merged with the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & Indianapolis Railroad Company. This company leased its road and property to the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Company.

Since 1938 the road has been leased to the New York Central Lines.

The persons who served as Freight Agents in Wharton whose names could be recalled were Ira Bristoll, Marion Earp, R. Salisbury, Frank Yake, L. S. DeLong, R. B. Haubler, and S. R. Neese. C. A. Pugh has been Freight Agent in Wharton since Aug., 1935,

As many of us know, the local depot has not been in use for many years. However, the railroad is still being used by the now so-called Penn-Central Lines.

The Methodist Church

In the northwest quarter of Section 28 of Richland Township, where now New Zion Church stands, the Methodists built the first church in Richland Township in 1852. It was built of hewn logs and measured twenty-four by thirty feet in size. Previous to that the services were held in a school house. However the first religious services were not held by Methodists. The first preaching reported in Richland Township was done by Mr. James Peters, a Baptist minister of the "Old School Baptist" persuasion.

The organization of the Methodist churcr in Richland Township dates May 28, 1853, under the ministry of Rev. John McCane, Pastor of the McCutchensville Circuit, Tiffin District, North Ohio Conference. After that in 860-1861 a frame church was built in Whartensburgh in the same place where now the brick edifice stands.

In the year 1882 when Rev. J. H. Carter was Pastor of the church in Wharton this frame church was moved to the north of Mr. Paul Secrist's Garage where it still stands and serves as a warehouse for the Wharton Hardware. The present brick building was then erected and dedicated in the year 1882. Rev. Jacob Holms, then Presiding Elder, held the First Quarterly Conference in same. The church was erected at the cost of six-thousand dollars.

This building was remodeled under the ministry of Rev. G. H. Beaschler, then under the ministry of Rev. Nelson Cruikshank and lastly under the ministry of Rev. N. H. Bradley.

In 1866 Whartensburgh, Zion Church and Mount Blanchard Church made up a circuit. When Mount Blanchard Church was added to another circuit, the churches of Lovell and Crawford were assigned to the Wharton circuit. When Rev. George Sessions was Pastor here, Wharton became a "station", that is to denote that Rev. George Sessions had only the Wharton Church to serve.

In the year 1928 Wharton Church became connected with the Crawford Crurch and the McCutchensville Church to form a circuit. Rev. N. H. Bradley then was the minister. In 1933 the McCutchens-

ville Church was added to another circuit and the Vanlue Church was assigned to the Wharton circuit.

The first parsonage was erected while the Rev. A. M. Christ was minister in Wharton. At that time J. A. Bell, Lewis Cole, Wm. Bristoll, David Sheldon and Edwin Brown were the Trustees. Rev. Beaschler was the first minister to occupy the new parsonage. In 1945 the present parsonage, then a dwelling, was purchased. Present trustees are Ralph Bowman, Joe Price, Stanley Walters, Wayne Cole, Eugene Van Buren, Pearl Price, Preston Weller, Russell Huston and George Fox, Jr.

Ministers who served since the building of the present church in 1882, are:

Rev. J. H. Carter, Rev. G. H. Priddy, Rev. J. M. Mills, Rev. J. M. Perkins, Rev.Daniel Carter, Rev. C. E. Rowley, Rev. W. E. Hill, Rev. E. J. Webster, Rev. D. C. Hall. Rev. A. M. Christ, Rev. G. H. Beaschler, Rev. A. M. Virden (1900), Rev. Hale, Rev. R. Wright, Rev. I. R. Richards, Rev. G. M. McNeely, Rev. G. F. Kinnear, Rev. T. J. Cary, Rev. G. Sessions, Rev. F. J. Rinehart, Rev. T. J. Otwell, Rev. E. E. Cole, Rev. John Burns, Rev. J. D. Darling, Rev. N. Peterson, Rev. F. L. Creach, Rev. J. F. Newcomb, Rev. N. Cruikshank, Rev. J. Richards, Rev. T. A. Ballinger, Rev. N. H. Bradley 1929-1930.

Ministers who served since 1930:

Rev. J. E. Turner, Rev. G. A. Robinson, Rev. J. L. Burton, Rev. D. Worthman, Rev. Stafford, Rev. Ted Smith, Rev. Jack Miller, Rev. Earl Newberg, Rev. Lewis Theodore, Rev. Paul McMurrin, Rev. Dean Shelly and Rev. J. Hughes Price.

The Church of God

In the year 1911 Rev. O. O. Tracy had three preaching places, Grace Chapel, Kirby and Star Bethel. Under his efforts the building of a church in Wharton was planned and the work for same was commenced April 20, 1911. This fine edifice was completed at a cost of $6,500 and is built of buff brick with a substantial slate roof. The dedication took place October 22, 1911 and as the services continued in the new church, the Star Bethel Church was abandoned and finally sold. The proceeds were applied to the new church. The church also experienced a great spiritual up lift under the ministry of this pastor for there were 42 conversions and several baptisms by immersion.

The first trustees were S. E. Huston, A. C. Ward and Elias Wentling. The first Elders were Wm. Baker and S. E. Huston. The first Deacons were A. C.Ward, H. B. Lambert, Elias Wentling and D. W. Brandt.

Miss Grace Nettro, Pastor at the church at Overton, held the first service in the new church. The Dedicatory Service was held by Dr. C. I Brown, President of Findlay College. In the afternoon this service was followed by a musical program in which the choir of the Church of God of Kirby, the Sylvian quartet of Forest and the Ladies Choir assisted. The ministers Rev. Turner and Rev. Koogle were present at these services.

The first Sunday School at the Church of God was organized

October 29, 1911. Mr. S. E. Huston was the first superintendent.

Since the ministry of Rev. Tracy the following ministers served this church: Rev. Steiner, Rev. Bauders, Rev. Miller, Rev. Kriner, Rev. Neff, Rev. Gaylord Wilkens, Rev. Robert Fast, Rev. Richard Wilkens and Rev. Fred J. Landolt.

The Christian Union Church

The Christian Union Church was founded in Wharton under the ministry of Rev. Stevenson in 1892. The building stood on West Sandusky Street where now the residence of D. F. Young stands.

The ministers who served in this church and whose names were ascertainable were: Rev. T. K. Leonard, Rev. J. Roberts, Rev. G. Carder and Rev. T. Smith.

The Christian Union Church was dissolved in 1910 and the building used for building material for residences.

Independent Order of the Odd Fellows

This order was chartered on May 12, 1876. The records of this Order under June 26, 1876 show the following names as charter members: Robert Davidson, D. W. Wickiser, Wm. Dutter, Jonathan Bouser, W. B. Murray, Simon Kercheley, Phill Cole, J. S. Shaner, Jacob Greek.

At present this Order has 110 members and owns the building in which their meetings are held. The documentary seal shows "Wharton Lodge No. 633, I. O. O. F." and still carries the name "Whartensburgh, O." Robert Rish is Noble Man of the Lodge.

Knights of Pythias

The Wharton Lodge 533 of the Knights of Pythias was chartered and the first meeting was held Dec. 2, 1891. By 1920 it had flourished to a membership of 140. The last meeting of the Wharton Lodge of the Knights of Pythias was held Jan. 2, 1931.

Lions Club

LIBERTY - INTELLIGENCE - OUR NATION'S SAFETY or in short, LIONS. The Wharton Lions were organized in 1954 with Howard Rinehart as the first President. This fine organization has been instrumental in operating the Wharton Little League program (baseball) and more recently, several other teams were formed. The present President is Hubert Kear.

Lincoln Grange

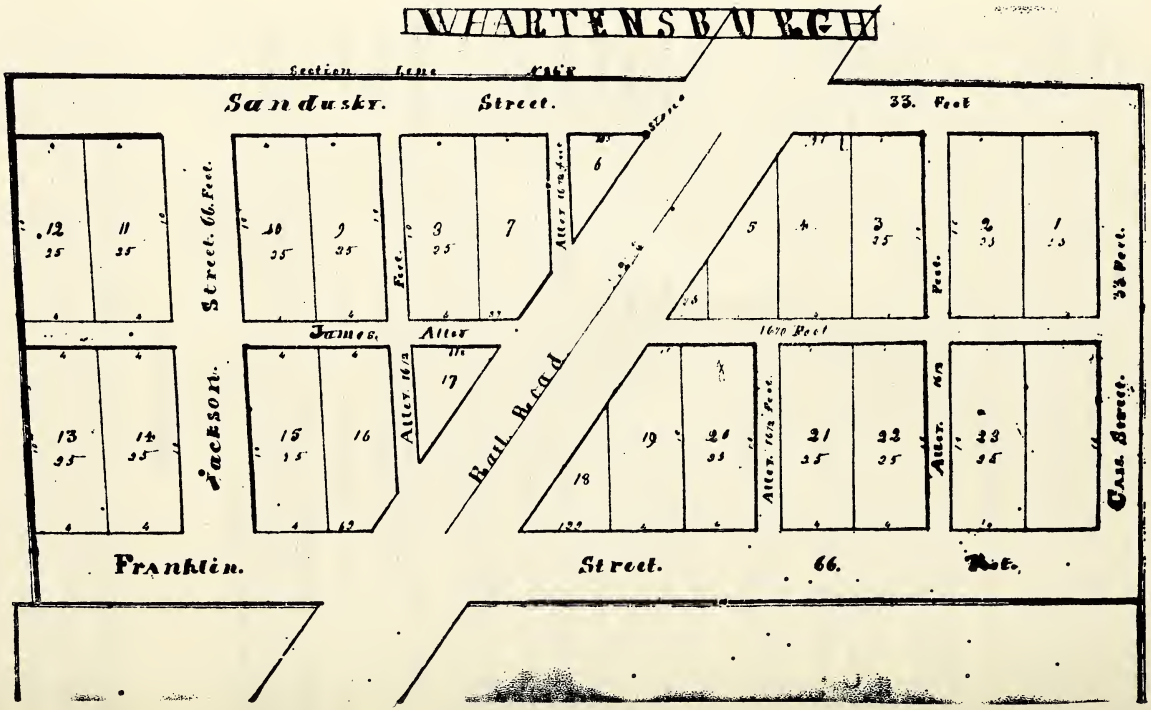
Lincoln Grange No. 1957 was organized Jan. 18, 1915 at Wharton, Ohio by the late C. E. Brown, who was then the Wyandot County Deputy State Master, with a charter membership of 28. Three of them are still living, namely, Mrs. Verna Cole, Mrs. Fairy Secrist and Mr. Ray Plotts. The Grange held its meetings at Wharton in the old grange building which was the first such building in Wyandot County. Then in 1923, when Richland Twp. schools became centralized, Lincoln Grange purchased one of the little red school houses, 2 miles north of Wharton. This building has been the grange's home ever since. In 1956, they built an addition to this red school house to better serve the Grange and community.

The Grange has been very active since organized with regular meetings having an interesting Literary program at all meetings pertaining to World Peace, Freedom, Patriotism, Intelligent Citizenship, Education, Fraternal Fellowship, Socialibility, Sound Legislation, Improved Highways, Recreational Facilities, Improvement of the farm and home, and Conservation programs. In the past, the Grange has furnished the following State Deputy Masters: Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Musgrave, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Plotts.

The late Ray Musgrave was the first master of Lincoln Grange. He was followed by Paul Secrist, Dale Motter, Marion Motter, Howard Cole, Clyde Cole, Ray Plotts, R. R. Smith, Mrs. R. R. Smith, George Stout, Bard Musgrave, Clarence Suber, Donald Weller, Dewey Plott, Estrel Suber, Robert Motter, Robert Suber and several more past masters whose names are not available at this time.

Mothers Clubs

There have been several Mothers Clubs organized as well with the Alpha Mothers Club being the oldest one. Other such clubs are Tot-to-Teens and Grow-n-Learn clubs. No further informations is available on these clubs.



Underneath this Original Surveyor's Chart was written what you will find on next page

The Town of WHARTENSBURGH is Situated in the North Part of the West half of the North East Quarter of Section twenty-two, Township two, South Range Twelve, East.

I, SAMUEL RATHBORN, Do declare that said Town is laid off According to Law in all Respects. In testimony I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal this 11 day of August, A. D. 1846.

(signed) Samuel Rathborn
Joseph Masons
Peter B. Beidler

The State of Ohio, Wyandot County.

This Eleventh day of August, A. D. 1846, Personally came before me the Undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in the foresaid County, SAMUEL RATHBORN, Signer of the Within Declaration and Proprietor of The Town of WHARTENSBURGH Within Platted and Severely Acknowledged the Platting thereof and the Signing and Sealing of said Declaration to be the Voluntary act and Deed for the Purpose in the Same Indicated and Expressed, Witness and Seal.

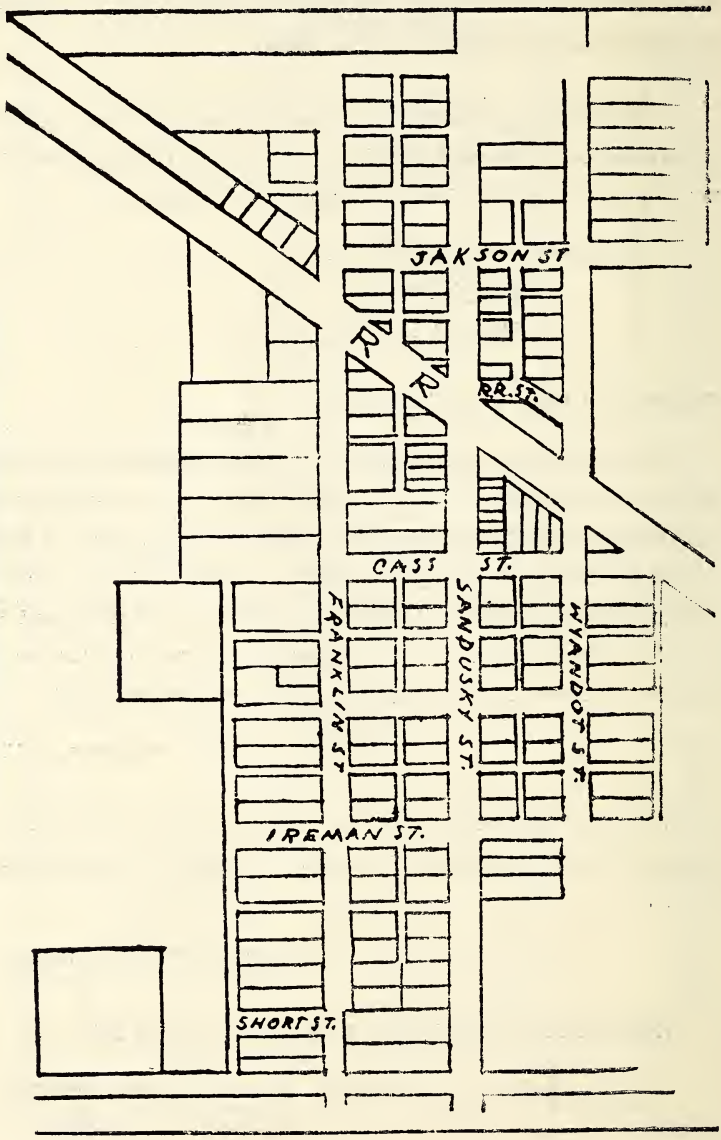
(Signed) John W. Senseney, J. P.

This is to certify that the above town plat is true and correct as near as could be laid off for Jam piles, tree tops and Logs, Surveyed by me.

(Signed) Peter B. Beidler

Recorded August 14th, 1846 In Rec'. Vol. 1 Page 369.

(Signed) John A. Morison, Recorder
Wyandot County, Ohio



Wharton, Ohio, Present Village Lots

First Things

DID YOU KNOW—

That William M. Benjamin, a father of eight children, who settled in this township in 1834, was a local minister of the Methodist Church?

That the grandfather of Mr. Peter Bristoll, residen of Wharton, came here in 1834?

That the first wedding in this section united John Roberts and Abigail Wickiser in December, 1834?

That the first birth here was that of Maria James on March 1st, 1835?

That the first death in Richland Township was that of a little boy, Elijah Benjamin, four years old, who died December 25, 1834, by a falling tree?

That the first trip of 500 miles by ox team from New York State to Whartensburgh was made by Samuel Spoon in 1841?

That a sensation was created when James P. Ward introduced the first buggy in 1838?

That the first grist mill in Whartensburgh was built by John and George Sterling in 1858?

That the first store in Whartensburgh was opened by James E. James?

That at the first election in Richland Township, April 6th 1838, only Whigs and Democrats were present?

That the first blacksmith shop erected in 1835 was run by Robert Reynolds?

That the first house built in this township was of round logs, measured 16 by 18 feet and was owned by Hescot Pickett and that he erected it in 1832?

That the first sermon preached here was by James Peters on June 28th, 1835?

That Mr. N. DePew built the first house in Whartensburgh in 1848?

That the first street lanterns in Wharton consisted of coal oil lamps housed in glass?

That we first had a "Building Association" at Wharton and later "The Wharton Grange and Building Association?

That the local Republican Party flag has 40 stars above the stripes and that the I. O. O. F. flag has only 45?

That in 1841 the "first night out" for Solomon Spoon was to sleep in the open under a hickory tree, as he had no home but had purchased 40 acres near Whartensburgh the day before?

That the first well drilled in Wharton was drilled by O. E. Wickiser in 1895?

That the first stone cross walks and curbing were laid in 1898?

That at first we only had 21 gasoline street lights and that now we have 38 electric street lights?

That the first bell for the Council House was bought in 1893 and that this bell was used for calling the Council Men to the meetings and that it was used for a curfew bell many years?

That the bricks for the first wells were furnished by Kime Bros.?

That Rummel & Cole had the contract for the first stone watering trough in Wharton?

That the belief of some residents is that the first name of the village "Whartensburgh" was given to it by the surveyor, Samuel Rathborn, who married a lady by the name Wharten?

That the first U. S. Geological Surveying in Wharton was done in 1906 and that a plate was attached to the cornerstone of the T. J. Howard Building which shows that Wharton lies 883 feet above sea level?

That the first name suggested for Whartensburgh at the incorporation was Maple City?

WHARTON BUSINESS

Building Association

1843 David L. Baker is Secretary of the Building Association at Whartensburgh.

Groceries

1846 James E. James, Postmaster and merchant of groceries.

Dry Goods

1850 David Kauble has a dry goods business in Whartensburgh.

Saw Mill

1855 John Sterling and George Sterling in partnership purchase a steam saw mill.

Caskets

1865 Ira Bristoll manufactures coffins in a log shop where now Buess Brothers Egg and Poultry business is.

Grist Mill

1865 John Sterling runs a grist mill with two "buhrs".

Hardware

1878 Sylvanys R. Coates runs a hardware store in connection with his Postmastership.

Banking

1870 William Bristoll banker-merchant in Wharton first worked for his father, then owned a store near the Railroad Station. Next he is owner of the largest establishment. He builds the "Bristoll Block" and has the Wharton Warehouse, the saw mill, planing mill and establishes the Richland Deposit Bank. He began his business career with $150.00.

Drugs

1876 Riner V. Rummell owned the drug store and was ticket and freight agent for the Indiana, Bloomington and Western Railroad.

Blacksmith

1882 William McClelland admitted W. K. Voegel into partnership and formed the McClelland & Voegel Company. They did the blacksmithing and wagon making.

Tile and Bricks

1882 Alfred and Albert Hime are running the tile and brick yard east of Wharton which Mrs. Henry Kime, their widowed mother, bought from Mr. Becket for $4,000.00.

Hotel

1883 Charles W. Hostler conducted a hotel in Wharton in the place where now Jack Bristoll's garage stands.

Furniture

1883 J. D. Wickiser and A. C. Kirby sold furniture, groceries and provisions.

Men's Furnishings

1884 Wallace Corner Store sold haberdashery.

Meals

1885 J. F. Bolton advertised square meals, special attention to transients.

Harness

1886 Thomas Miller sold, repaired and oiled harnesses.

Flour

1886 The Wharton Milling Company, best flours and grain.

Stoves

1886 S. R. Coates sold stoves and general merchandise.

Commercial House

1887 Commercial House Wharton, refurnished, repainted, home like, comfortable, E. E. Scrote, Proprietor.

Gas

Gas wells were drilled on J. A. Bell, N. C. Kear and Jacob Welz farms, west of Wharton and a company was formed, called "The Wharton Oil and Gas Company". This Company furnished gas for Wharton.

On August 29, 1927 an ordinance was passed by the Council to grant a franchise to the Wharton Oil and Gas Company.

Later this company sold its outfit to the Ohio Fuel Gas Company. This gas company is now known as the Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. with our district office in Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

The Post Office

As stated, James E. James was the first Postmaster in Whartensburgh. He was installed in this office in 1852. The following held office after him: Ira Bristoll 1855, Adam DeBrough 1866, Charles Hostler 1867, Hiram P. Marshall 1868, Adam B. Houk 1869, S. R. Coates 1869.

ON MARCH 6, 1879 THE VILLAGE WAS INCORPORATED AND ITS NAME CHANGED TO WHARTON and S. R. Coates was

re-appointed Postmaster.

Other Postmasters were: A. J. Greek 1886, Charles Bell 1894, E. E. E. Kear 1897, Hiram Miller 1902, John Gatchell 1914-1942.

Up to the installation of Mr. John Gatchell in office the postmastership was a political job. Mr. Gatchell was the first Postmaster who entered his office after a Civil Service examination. He was born April 30, 1872, is in good health and, incidentally, celebrated his Golden Wedding on the day of Wharton's Centennial, August 11, 1946.

Next in the office was Harold Gibson. Glenn Heuberger came into the office in 1946.

Following the death of Mr. Heuberger, his wife Wilma took over as postmistress. Mrs. Heuberger was followed by Herbert Baker, Jr. Under Mr. Baker's term, he got permission from the U. S. Government to build a new post office, almost directly across from the old post office. Mr. Baker was then replaced by Ralph Gibson while the former is now rural carrier.

The Wharton Cemetery

The ground for a needed burial site was purchased by the village of Wharton from J. W. Ireman and the plots were laid out October, 1880. Six years later ground for a North Addition to the cemetery was bought from Mrs. J. W. Ireman and in 1889 more land was purchased from the same person for the South Addition.

Another section, called the Wise Addition was purchased from Mrs. Jerome Wise in 1934.

In 1923 the Village Council created a fund for the perpetual upkeep of the cemetery. The money of this fund was to be invested in Government Bonds, State or Municipal bonds or to be placed in the local bank. The interest of this money was to be used for the upkeep of burial lots. Also a charge of ten cents per square foot of ground was to be collected from lot owners for the upkeep. This fund today has approximately $2,800.00.

The first burial in the Wharton cemetery was that of Lola M. Rummel who died October 19, 1880.

On May 30, 1946 a Memorial Day program was held in the cemetery in honor of the veterans of the recent world war. Celebrations of this kind have been held here in previous years with ever increasing interest.

Finally in the early 1950's, this cemetery operating under the Village of Wharton was having difficulty in continuing such operations. At this time, it was suggested that a levy be placed on the ballot for the voters of both the Village of Wharton and the Richland Township. Therefore, the cemetery was re-organized as Wharton-Richland Union Cemetery in 1956. Following this new setup, the Trustees proceeded to acquire more land from J. H. Lutz, directly across from the older cemetery. This parcel of land was donated by Mr. Lutz, incidentally.

The upkeep fund now has over $6,000.00 and which money is on time certificates from the Wharton Bank. The interest on these cer-

tificates, the sales of lots and tre levies are keeping this said cemetery going and growing.

It is estimated that there are about 1000 graves by now.

The original Committee for this Historical Sketch, Dr. D. Worthman, the late Mr. Bert Lee, the late Mr. John Gatchell and the late Mr. C. A. Pugh, are grateful for the assistance friends have given to this work and feel especially indebted to the late Mr. John Long for the furnishing of much valuable data for this book.

Wharton, Ohio, August 11th, 1946

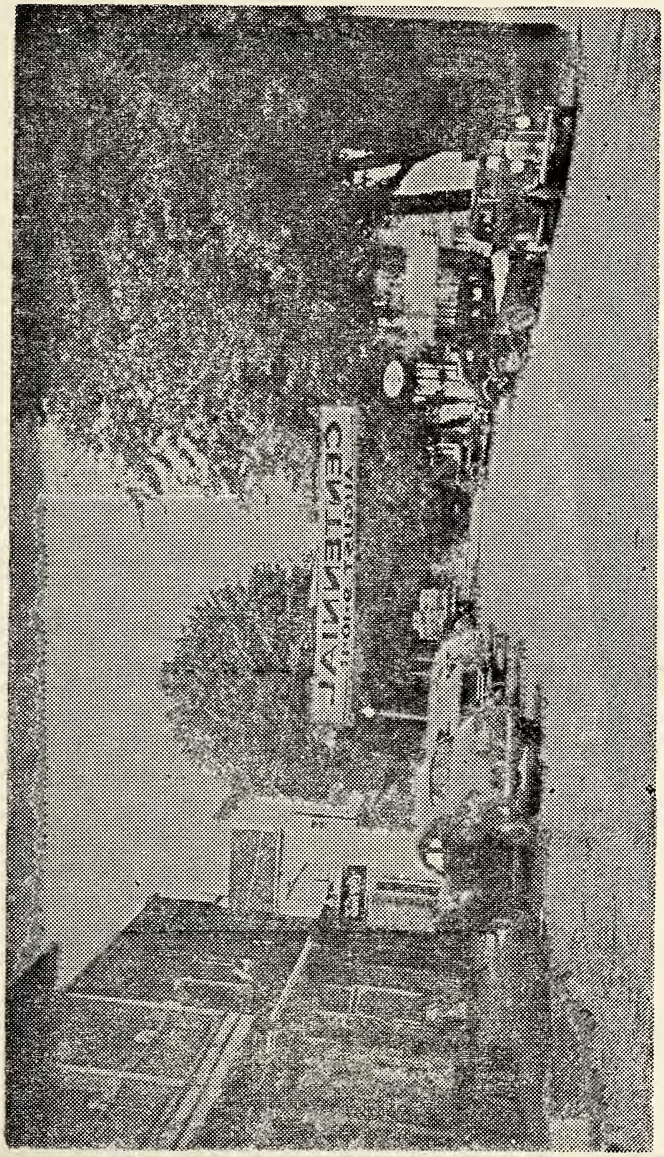
The 1971 Committee for this Historical Sketch consisted of Nina Reynolds, Pearl Wisner, Vernon Fulk, Clayton Pever and Calvin J. Pever, Chairman.

Wharton, Ohio, August 14th, 1971

—NOTES—

List of Business Places and Merchants, August 1971

U. S. Postal Service—Ralph Gibson, Postmaster
The Wharton Bank—Emery P. Kear, Pres.; Hubert O. Kear, Cashier
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.—Eugene Leffler, Mgr. (Upper Sandusky Office)
The Wharton Elevator, Inc.
Baker Lumber Co.
Wharton Custom Cannery, Donald E. Cole, owner
Preston Weller—Insurance
Opper Drainage—Gerald S. Opper, owner
Deisler's Beauty Shop—Mrs. Dale Deisler, owner
Wise's Garage, Howard Wise, owner
Wharton Hardware, Marvin Beach, owner
Brown's Groceries & Meats, G. A. Brown, owner
The Wharton Restaurant, Roberta Boden, owner
Pever's Shoe Repair, Harry S. Pever, owner
Barber Shop, Bert A. Corbin, owner.
Maxine's Beauty Salon, Maxine Bristoll, owner
Carol's Beauty Shop, Carol Howard, owner
Walter Service Work, Robert J. Walter, owner
Blacksmith & Welding, Wayne Cole, Prop.
Hardwood Products Jack Ogg, owner
Real Estate, Raymond and Donna Park, realtors
Hearl Brashares for Farmers Mutual Relief Association
Dwight Brashares for Farmers Mutual Relief Association
G. A. Walter for State Auto-Home Insurance
Electric Light and Power—Board of Public Affairs: Marvin Beach, Pres ; Ralph Fields and Harry Watson; Thomas J. Lee, Clerk
Village of Wharton—Councilmen: Clayton Pever, Pres.; Donald Eatherton, Ronald Horn, Jack Opper, Jack Hochstettler and Jerry Huston. Mayor—Gerald S. Opper. Clerk - Treasurer—Calvin J. Pever. Marshal—Carl Long
Richland Township—Trustees: C. J. Searfoss, President; Thomas Kotterman and Donald Plotts; Clerk—John Stephan
Wharton-Richland Union Cemetery—Trustees: Donald Eatherton, President; C. J. Searfoss and Jerry L. Huston; Clerk-Treasurer—Calvin J. Pever



Main Street Looking East During Our Centennial In 1946

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